

**Home Visiting Task Force Meeting
July 20th, 2015**

MINUTES

Participants: Dawn Delgado, Jay Young, Lesley Schwartz, Anna Potere, Diana Rauner (co-chair), Gaylord Gieseke (co-chair), Audrey Moy, Gail Nourse, Teresa Kelly, Joanna Su, Merri Ex, Kelly Vrablic, Andrea Palmer, Melanie Garrett, TeeNeka Jones, Rose Gallagher, Peggy Kiefer, Juana Ballesteros, Paula Corrigan-Halpern, Christine Nicpon, Roy Harley, Christa Austin, Vikki Thompson, Deborah Hagman-Shannon, Tracee Durham, Gerri Clark, Whitney Walsh, Anita Berry, Matthew Poes, Carolyn Winje, Elizabeth Barisik, Deb Daro, Katelyn Kanwischer, Mattie McLaurin, Claire Littlefield, Ralph Schubert, Elaine Duensing, Charaine Boyd, Denise Dell'Isola, Kelly Woodlock, Kenne Westbrook, Sheryl Stoller, Cindy Zumwalt, Julia Marynus, John McDonnell, Bakahia Madison

May 26th, 2015 meeting minutes: the minutes were approved with no changes.

COIIN Initiative to Reduce Infant Mortality

- Andrea Palmer and Kelly Vrablic from the Illinois Department of Public Health presented on the Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network (COIIN) to Reduce Infant Mortality, which is a multi-year, national initiative supported by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at HRSA.
- In 2012, 966 infants of Illinois residents died, which is an infant mortality rate of 6.3 deaths per 1,000 births. This rate is highest in Chicago, suburban Cook County, and other urban counties.
- Social Determinants of Health (“SDoH”) impact a women’s health long before she becomes pregnant. SDoH are conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. Making substantial changes in infant mortality requires considering how to intervene on social and structural factors.
- High economic disadvantage in a community is related to higher infant mortality. The ten most disadvantaged counties in Illinois are Alexander, Cook, Kankakee, Macon, Marion, Pulaski, Saline, St. Clair, Vermillion, and Winnebago.
- In Illinois, there are four strategies to be implemented through COIIN in an effort to reduce infant mortality:
 - Empowering women throughout their lifespan;
 - Engaging the community;
 - Building improvement capacity at the state level; and
 - Creating strategic partnerships.
- See PowerPoint presentation for additional information.

Universal Newborn Support System (UNSS) Work Group Update

- Deb Daro and Jay Young discussed the current version of the Framework for a Universal Newborn Support System (the “UNSS Framework”).
- Objectives of UNSS include reaching all newborns in Illinois, assessing parents’ capacity, making referrals to meet the parents’ level of need, and connecting parents with appropriate services.
- The UNSS Work Group will be meeting on July 30th to begin discussion as to what hospitals in Illinois may be currently doing in terms of newborn support, and to discuss the development of a pilot.
- The pilot will be used to implement the UNSS framework, and to learn lessons that will enable the Work Group to take UNSS to scale more effectively and efficiently throughout the state.
- See the current version of the UNSS Framework for additional information.

Home Visiting—Child Welfare Work Group Update

- The Work Group has agreed that the pilot will consist of the following (*note: some of this information may have changed since July 20, 2015*):
 - The model for the project will be Healthy Families America.
 - The geographic target will be Cook County, because a preponderance of DCFS families lives in Cook County.
 - The target population will be teen parents (both males and females) who are DCFS wards.
 - The involvement in the program is voluntary by the teen parents.
 - Chapin Hall has agreed to do an evaluation once the model is created.
 - Discussions of potential funding for the model and evaluation have begun and will continue.
 - Coordination of services for those receiving multiple services is critical.

HVTF Vision for Home Visiting in Illinois

- The Home Visiting Task Force’s vision for home visiting in Illinois has been finalized. This document, which is intended to be a living document, represents a shared vision of home visiting in Illinois.
- Task Force members are encouraged to disseminate this document in order to create a better understanding of the Task Force’s vision for home visiting in Illinois and how it aligns with the State’s overall vision for early childhood education.

Potential Changes to MIECHV

- HRSA, which is the federal agency responsible for administering MIECHV, is soliciting feedback on two aspects of the MIECHV program: the benchmark constructs, and the funding formula.
- In soliciting this feedback, HRSA aims to streamline the constructs in order to identify what are the most impactful data points that states should be collecting, and to ensure that the funding formula promotes stability, sustainability, and continuity for states.
- HRSA asked the Association for State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives (ASTHVI) to formulate recommendations in both of these areas, which it has now submitted. There is also an opportunity for others, such as the Home Visiting Task Force, to submit feedback to HRSA.
- The Task Force Executive Committee met to discuss how to proceed with this opportunity, and decided to submit two statements to HRSA:
 - A statement to support the high level recommendations that ASTHVI submitted for revising the benchmark constructs. When the revised constructs are released for public comment, the Task Force will consider whether to submit more specific comments.
 - A statement to declare our continued support for the original guidance from HRSA to states on how the formula and competitive grant funding should be used – namely, that MIECHV formula funding should be focused on increasing access and supporting core operations and infrastructure, and that MIECHV competitive grant funding should be used to expand and analyze promising practices and further develop the field.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- “Igrow” is the new brand for home visiting in Illinois. The [website](#) has resources for families and programs, and agencies can contact the MIECHV team at OECD to use the logo.
- The next meeting of the full Task Force is October 19th.
- The next meeting of the UNSS Work Group is July 30th.
- Infant Mortality Awareness Day is September 1st.